

14 February 1964

COM-5

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group Meeting, 13 February 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Vance, and Mr. McCone.

Also present was Lt. General Marshall A. Carter.

OSD review completed.

Photo Reconnaissance Mission

Mr. Bundy asked if the recent problem concerning the use of [redacted] for an IDEALIST mission in support of COMUSMAV Op Plan 34A had been resolved.

Mr. McCone then stated that he would like to have a reaffirmation of existing policy that all IDEALIST flights over denied and unfriendly territory or covert flights over friendly territory be considered a responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence with the customary approvals of the Special Group, and that he be empowered to designate the organization and the resources to be utilized in the conduct of such flights.

Mr. Vance stated that in regard to this particular mission NRO was involved and that upon receiving the urgent requirement from CINCPAC for this single flight and upon learning that the [redacted] were grounded because of fuel control problems, the JCS, Mr. McNamara, and he had agreed that SAC should fly the flight.

Mr. Bundy suggested that Mr. McCone formulate a directive for carrying out his responsibilities and circulate the draft for approval at the next Special Group meeting.

Mr. Bundy then asked: Who has the responsibility for the completion of this particular operation? Mr. Vance stated that the mission was clearly one-shot in nature and when completed the equipment and crews would depart immediately from the area. He stated that the presence of three aircraft and seven crews had no connection with the South Vietnam base line coverage and that [redacted] could be used for this.

Peter Jespersen
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State Department review completed

NRO review(s) completed.

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